

CLAIMS

1. A wound dressing comprises in combination
 - (i) a first wound contact layer which preferably has a positive effect on the healing of the wound,
 - (ii) a second layer of greater hydrophilicity than the first layer, and
 - (iii) a breathable film having an increased MVTR capability in the presence of liquid water as compared to moisture vapour alone.
2. A dressing as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hydrophilicity of layer (ii) is at least twice that of layer (i).
3. A dressing as claimed in claim 2 wherein the hydrophilicity of layer (ii) is 3 to 5 times that of layer (i).
4. A dressing as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein layer (i) has a thickness of 50 to 1,000 microns.
5. A dressing as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein layer (i) is one which provides for clotting via agglutination of red cells.
6. A dressing as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the layer (i) is one which is capable of debriding the wound.
7. A dressing as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein layer (i) delivers a component to the wound.

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8. A dressing as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein layer (i) comprises calcium alginate, zinc alginate, silver alginate, chitosan, pectin, silver N,O-carboxymethyl chitosan, silver O-carboxymethyl chitosan or a dehydrated hydrogel.
9. A dressing as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein layer (ii) is a woven, non-woven or knitted fibrous material.
10. A dressing as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein layer (ii) has a thickness of 1,000 to 5,000 microns.
11. A dressing as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein layer (ii) is a felt comprised of sodium alginate/calcium alginate, sodium calcium carboxymethyl cellulose, sodium zinc carboxymethyl cellulose, sodium calcium polyacrylate or sodium calcium carrageenin.
12. A dressing as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11 wherein the film has an MVTR in the presence of moisture vapour alone of $2,000$ to $2,500 \text{ g m}^{-2}\text{24hr}^{-1}$.
13. A dressing as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12 wherein the film has an MVTR in the presence of liquid water of $6,000$ to $30,000 \text{ g m}^{-2}\text{24hr}^{-1}$.
14. A dressing as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein the film has a thickness of 30-70 microns.
15. A dressing as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14 wherein the film is of a polyurethane.
16. A dressing as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 wherein an adhesive is provided on the film for bonding the latter to skin around the wound.

18. A dressing as claimed in claim 17 wherein the adhesive is one which, as a continuous layer having a thickness of 20 microns, has an MVTR of 15,000 g m⁻²24hr⁻¹.

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